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Specification

1. 1. Title of the Invention

Laminated LCD Device

2. 2. Claims

(1) A laminated LCD device for an LCD display device provided with a number of electrode groups arranged in lines, having a plurality of LCD layers deposited by using at least three glass substrates having electrodes and LCD layers provided between the glass substrates.

(2) The laminated LCD device of claim 1 using ultrathin glass substrates, wherein the number of scanning electrodes is the number of laminated LCD layers multiplied by the number of scanning electrodes of one glass substrate.

(3) The laminated LCD device of claim 1 employing thick glass substrates, wherein three-dimensional display is made possible by changing the length of at least a signal electrode of each LCD layer for every LCD layer.

3. 3. Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to an LCD display device, and particularly to a laminated LCD display device.

An LCD display device (Liquid Crystal Display abbreviated to "LCD") is a device having liquid crystal sealed between glass substrates having a conductive transparent thin layer such as In_2O_3 and ITO (Indium Tin Oxide) as a specific pattern electrode. The strength of reflected light or transmitted light from an external light source can be altered by applying a voltage between electrodes to cause a change in the orientation of liquid crystal molecules. Therefore, by changing an electrode to which voltage is applied, specific characters and images can be displayed, and this LCD display device is becoming widespread as a means for displaying characters on a watch and a calculator, and as a display device of characters and images of toys and others. Very recently, small-sized LCD TVs, etc. having the above

conductive transparent electrodes aligned in a matrix have started to appear. As a result, it is considered that the applied field will increasingly spread to such dynamic character/image display fields in the future.

Fig. 1 shows a structural outline of an LCD device of the related art having electrodes aligned in a matrix. Fig. 1(a) is a plan view and Fig. 1(b) is a cross section taken along the line A-A in Fig. 1 (a). Transparent conductive electrodes 1-1 taken as scanning electrodes are aligned in small strips on a glass substrate 1, and transparent conductive electrodes 2-2 taken as signal electrodes are aligned in small strips on a glass substrate 2 and are made to face each other in an orthogonal manner. Liquid crystal 10 is injected through an inlet 7 into a space surrounded by an adhesive 6 for hermetically sealing peripheral sections of the display device, and an LCD display device is finally formed by hermetically sealing with adhesive 8 for sealing the liquid crystal and arranging polarizing plates 11 orthogonally. Regions where the small strip-shaped transparent electrodes arranged in a matrix cross respectively form pixels. With the LCD display of the related art, if the width and inter-electrode interval of the strip shaped transparent electrodes is made narrow, a number of pixels of high density can be obtained to some extent, but resistivity of the transparent electrode film is not very low and there is a limit to making the surface area large and increasing the density, and there are also limits placed on functionality.

The object of the present invention is to provide an LCD device having electrodes arranged in a matrix that has high density pixels and is capable of new functions by having a plurality of liquid crystal layers laminated on one another.

In order to achieve the above object, the LCD device of the present invention uses at least three glass substrates having transparent electrodes, so that there are a plurality of liquid crystal layers, and is provided with groups of transparent electrodes, for use as scanning electrodes or signal electrodes that are orthogonal to each other and fitted between a liquid crystal layer, for each liquid crystal layer.

The thickness of glass substrates used with the latest LCD devices

has been gradually becoming thinner, 0.2 mm or 0.1m, and the present invention has been developed based on the following two points. Namely that it becomes possible to obtain a large surface area having good uniformity and flatness, and that it becomes possible to improve the performance of liquid crystal (purity, degree of transparency, contrast ratio etc.) and to make the liquid crystal film extremely thin. There is therefore no problem visually with making a liquid crystal layer out of a plurality of layers stacked on one another and specifically it has been confirmed by experiment that it is possible to ignore an impression of separation between images of each layer. In this way, the number of electrodes for scanning electrodes and signal electrodes is made larger than with the related art and is increased by n if the number of laminates is n , which means that a matrix shaped LCD device having high pixel density may be obtained in a straightforward manner.

The positions of the electrodes for signals and for scanning are preferably the same or slightly offset when viewed from above, and this can be chosen depending on the purpose. Also, if control of scanning and signals is varied for each layer, it is possible to incorporate new high level functions, such as image superposition, comparison etc. If the glass substrates are of a normally used thickness, namely, for example, 0.7, 1.1 mm or 1.5 mm, the LCD device of the present invention cannot, from the point of view of visibility, provide an LCD device having a high resolution image while being able to view the above described flat image, but it is possible to endow the LCD device with completely new functions. An embodiment of this is shown in Fig. 2(a), Fig. 2(b), Fig. 2(c) and Fig. 3.

With this embodiment, four liquid crystal layers 10 are laminated using 5 glass substrates 1 - 5. As shown in Fig. 2(b), showing a cross-sectional view in the direction of the line A - A in Fig. 2(a), on each glass substrate 1 - 4 scanning electrode groups represented by reference numerals 1-1 to 4-1 are arranged in narrow strips in the lateral direction of the display device from one end to the other end, but positions where these scanning electrode groups 1-1 to 4-1 are provided are different for each liquid crystal layer, as shown

in Fig. 2(c) which is a cross section along the line B - B in Fig. 2(a). On the contrary, a signal electrode group is arranged on each of the glass substrates 2 - 5 in narrow strips in the vertical direction of the display device, as shown by reference numerals 2-2 to 5-5, and a range where this group of signal electrodes exists is not from one end of the display device to the other but varies in length for each liquid crystal layer. Referring to Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2(b), a signal electrode 2-2 of the first liquid crystal layer is the longest (14) with second and third layers becoming sequentially shorter and the signal electrode 5-2 of the fourth liquid crystal layer being the shortest (11). With a laminated LCD device having this type of structure, it is possible to provide new functions, such as characters and a three dimensional appearance, giving an image that could not be conceived of with an LCD display up to now. Fig. 2(c) gives a three dimensional appearance of a convex form, and Fig. 3, showing another embodiment, gives a three dimensional appearance of a concave form where the length of each layer of the signal electrodes is the reverse to those of Fig. 2(c). Reference numeral 6 in Fig. 2 represents an adhesive for hermetic sealing, reference numeral 7 represents a liquid crystal injection port, reference numeral 9 represents strengthening adhesive, and reference numeral 11 represents polarizing plates.

In Fig. 2(c) and Fig. 3, description has been given of the possibility of a three dimensional display that is concave or convex, but if various concepts for the lengths of the signal electrodes in Fig. 2(c) or Fig. 3 are considered for each liquid crystal layer, it will be understood that a complex three dimensional appearance can be easily realized.

The present invention has been described using an example of a matrix type LCD device, but in an LCD device needing a plurality of electrode groups such as a partial matrix type, the effects of the present invention are particularly noteworthy.

As is clear from the above description, by laminating a plurality of liquid crystal layers, it is possible to obtain an LCD device having new features and functions that could not have been obtained with an LCD device of the related art, and the range of applicability of an LCD device is significantly expanded.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows a matrix LCD device of the related art, with Fig. 1(a) being a plan view, and Fig. 1 (b) being a cross-sectional view.

Fig. 2 is an embodiment of a laminated matrix LCD device of the present invention, Fig. 2 (a) being a plan view, Fig. 2 (b) being across section taken along the line A-A in Fig. 2 (a), and Fig. 2 (c) being a cross section taken along the line B-B in the same, and Fig. 3 is the same cross-sectional view as in Fig. 2(c) showing a different embodiment of the present invention.

1-5 Glass substrate; 1-1 - 4-1 scanning electrode group; 2-2 -5-2 signal electrode group; 6 sealing adhesive; 7 LCD injection inlet; 8 LCD sealing adhesive; 9 strengthening adhesive; 10 LCD; 11 polarizing plate.

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⑭ 発明の名称 複層型LCD装置

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⑰ 発 明 者 相 沢 正 宜 横浜市港南区港南5-10-16
⑱ 発 明 者 森 喜 重 町田市山崎町2130 山崎団地6-7-307
⑲ 出 願 人 スタンレー電気株式会 東京都目黒区中目黒2丁目9番13号
社
⑳ 復 代 理 人 弁理士 篠原 泰司

明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

複層型LCD装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

- (1) 行列状に電極群を配置して多数の電極群を設けた液晶表示装置において、電極を有するガラス基板を少なくとも3枚以上用い且つこれらガラス基板の間に液晶層を設けることによつて液晶層が複数積層されていることを特徴とする複層型LCD装置。
- (2) 特許請求の範囲第1項記載の極薄ガラス基板を用いた複層型LCD装置において、定電極数が1枚の上記ガラス基板の定電極数の液晶層の積層数倍となつていることを特徴とする、上記LCD装置。
- (3) 特許請求の範囲第1項記載の肉厚ガラス基板を用いた複層型LCD装置において、各液晶層の少なくとも信号電極の長さを各液晶層毎に変えることによつて立体感表示を可能にしたことを特徴とする、上記LCD装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は液晶表示装置、とくに複層型の液晶表示装置に関するものである。

液晶表示装置 (Liquid Crystal Display、略してLCD) は、 In_2O_3 やITO (Indium Tin Oxide) などの導電性透明薄膜を特定のパターン電極としたガラス基板間に液晶 (Liquid Crystal) を封入した構造をもつ装置で、電極間に電圧を加えることで液晶分子の配向を変えて外部光源からの反射光或いは透過光の強度を変えることができるものである。従つて電圧を加える電極を変えることで特定の文字や像などの表示が可能であり、この液晶表示装置は時計や計算機などの文字表示や玩具その他の文字・像の表示装置として非常に広く普及しつつある。ごく最近では上記の導電性透明電極をマトリックス状に配置した小型液晶テレビなども登場し、今後ますますこのような動的文字画像表示の分野にも応用分野が広がっていくものと考えられる。

第1図は従来の電極をマトリックス状に配置し

たLCD装置の構造を概略的に示したもので、(a)は平面図、(b)は(a)のA-A線沿いの断面図である。ガラス基板1には走査電極としての導電性透明電極1-1が矩形状に配置され、ガラス基板2にも信号電極としての導電性透明電極2-2が矩形状に配置され、これらの電極が互いに直交するように対向させ表示装置の周辺部を封止用接着剤6で閉められた間隙に注入口7から液晶10を注入し、液晶封止用接着剤8で封止しかつ偏光板11を直交配置してLCD装置が形成される。マトリックス(行列)状に配列された矩形状の透明電極の交点の領域が画素になるわけである。かかる従来構造のLCD装置においては、矩形状の透明電極の幅や電極間隔を狭くすれば成る程度高密度の画素数は得られるのであるが、透明電極膜の抵抗率が余り低くないこともあつて大面積化や高密度化に限界があり、また同様に機能的にも限界があつた。

本発明の目的は、電極をマトリックス状に配置したLCD装置において、液晶層を多層に積層化することによって高密度画素を有しかつ新しい機能を得ることができるLCD装置を提供することにある。

上記目的を達成するため、本発明に係るLCD装置は、透明電極を有するガラス基板を3枚以上用い液晶層を複数層存在させて各液晶層毎に液晶層を挟む形で互いに直交する走査用及び信号用の透明電極群を設けたことに特徴を有する。

最近のLCD装置に用いられるガラス基板の厚みも漸次薄くできるようになり、0.2%或いは0.1%、場合によつてはそれ以下のものが平滑で均一性良く大面積で得られるようになったこと、及び液晶の性能(純度、透明度、コントラスト比など)の向上と共に液晶層の厚みも極めて薄くできるようになったことの2点から、液晶層を複数層重ねても視認性に問題がない点、すなわち各層の像の距離感が無視できることが実験的に確かめられたことに本発明に至る契機がある。このようにすれば信号用及び走査用電極の本数は従来のものよりも、積層数 n とすれば n 倍に増加させることができるので容易に高密度画素を有するマトリックス

状LCD装置が得られるのである。

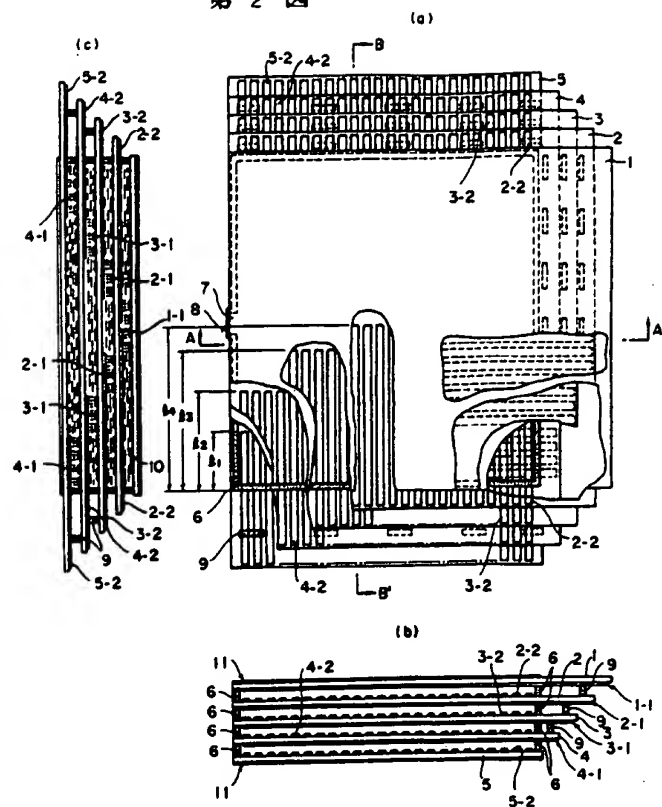
信号用及び走査用の電極の位置は上から見て同一位置にあつても或いは少しずらして位置してもよく、目的により選択すればよい。また各層毎の走査及び信号の制御を変えれば像の重ね合せ、比較などの新しい高度な機能をもたせることができるのである。

ガラス基板が通常使われているような厚い場合、すなわち例えば0.7%、1.1%、1.5%厚みの場合には、本発明のLCD装置は視認性の点から上述したような一平面の像と見えながら且つ高密度画素を有しているといったLCD装置は得られないのであるが、全く新しい別の機能を持たせることができる。その実施例を第2図(a)、(b)、(c)及び第3図に示す。

本実施例では、5枚のガラス基板1~5を用い液晶層10を4層重ねたものを示している。第2図(a)のA-A'方向の断面図を示す第2図(b)に図示するように、各ガラス基板1~4には符号1-1~4-1で示す走査用電極群が表示装置の横方向

においてその一端部から他端部まで矩形状に配置されているが、それらの走査用電極群1-1~4-1が設けられている位置は、第2図(a)のB-B'線沿いの断面図である第2図(c)に示す如く、各液晶層毎に異なるようにするのである。それに対し信号用電極群は各ガラス基板2~5に符号2-2から5-2で示されているように表示装置の縦方向において矩形状に配置されており、これら信号用電極が存在する範囲は表示装置の一端部から他端部までではなく各液晶層毎に長さを変えるのである。第2図(a)、(b)を参照すると、第1層の液晶層における信号電極2-2が一番長く(Δ)、第2層、第3層となるに従い短くなつて第4層の液晶層での信号電極5-2が一番短く(Δ)なるようにしてある。このような構造をもつ積層型LCD装置にすれば今までのLCD装置では考えられなかつた画像、文字に立体感といった新しい機能を与えることができるのである。第2図(c)は凸状の立体感を与えるものであり、一方、他の実施例を示す第3図は信号電極の各層における長さを第

第 2 図



第 3 図

